

University of Cambridge  
Computer Laboratory

New Museums Site  
Pembroke Street  
Cambridge CB2 3QG

*From:* Dr. Ross Anderson, C. Math., C. Eng.  
University Lecturer  
Computer and Communications Security

Tel: 01223 33 47 33  
Fax: 01223 33 46 78  
Email: rja14@c1.cam.ac.uk

February 3, 2000

Jim Foti  
NIST  
100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8930  
Building 820, Room 417  
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8930  
USA

*Dear Jim*

This is to confirm that we did not follow up our UK application for a patent on Serpent. This was UK application no. GB 9722798.7, 'Fast Block Cipher', filed 29 October 1997; we simply didn't follow the application up within a year of filing as one has to do to keep the process alive, either as a UK patent or internationally.

Accordingly there is no longer to our knowledge any present or pending patent encumbrance on the Serpent algorithm.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Anderson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ross Anderson